

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 27, 2003
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 8, 2003
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 25, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 526

Introduced by Assembly Member Chan
(Coauthor: Senator Perata)

February 18, 2003

An act to add and repeal Section 2107.5 of the Elections Code, relating to registration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 526, as amended, Chan. Voter registration.

Under existing law, persons eligible to vote must register to vote no later than 14 days prior to election day.

This bill would permit Alameda County to establish a pilot program, for elections held entirely in the county *and which are not consolidated with a state or federal election*, under which persons could register and vote at specified locations during a 14-day period up to and including election day. The bill would require the Secretary of State to study the program to report its effect on voter turnout and voter fraud, and to assess its feasibility for other jurisdictions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 2107.5 is added to the Elections Code, to read:

2107.5. (a) Alameda County is authorized to establish a pilot voter registration program for local elections held entirely within the county. The pilot program shall provide that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person entitled to register to vote under Section 2101 shall be permitted during the 14-day period up to and including the day of the election to register and vote at the office of the elections official or at satellite offices that the elections official establishes for this purpose. ~~The This pilot program shall end after the county has administered the pilot program for two elections.~~ *shall not be implemented for any election that is consolidated with a state or federal election.*

(b) Persons wishing to vote pursuant to this section shall, upon presenting identification and proof of residence within Alameda County, be entitled to vote using a regular ballot. The Secretary of State shall specify acceptable identification and proof of residence.

(c) The elections official shall notify the public of all locations in Alameda County where persons eligible to vote may register and vote during the 14-day period up to and including the day of the election, by issuing a press release no later than 40 days before election day. The press release shall state the address of all locations and the date and hours that each location will be open.

(d) The Secretary of State shall conduct a study of elections held under this pilot program to determine its impact on voter turnout, to evaluate whether voting fraud occurred as a result of the program, and to assess its feasibility for implementation in other jurisdictions.

(e) If Alameda County establishes the pilot program authorized by this section, that county shall be responsible for the costs of implementing the pilot program.

(f) This section shall remain in effect only until December 31, ~~2007~~ 2005, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before December 31, ~~2007~~ 2005, deletes or extends that date.

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